transfer and incorporate them in an agreement or any other appropriate legal instrument they may be executed between the parties".

The Hon'ble High Court at Calcutta granted a stay order on the transfer of the lease of 11-B on 16.4.96 on a public interest petition filed by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy, Members of Parliament. The writ petition had been dismissed by the Hon'ble High Court on grounds of jurisdiction on 10.5.1996. However, the operation of the order was stayed by the Hon'ble High Court for a period of three weeks upto 31.5.1996. On a petition by the Joint Venture Company against this order the Hon'ble Calcutta High Court ordered on 14.5.96 that the interim stay granted by the learned trial judge will remain suspended till the disposal of the appeal preferred by the Company and the appeal preferred by Shri Gurudas Dasgupta and Shri Jibon Roy against the order dismissing the original writ petition on jurisdiction grounds. These appeals are yet to come up before the regular bench.

The subject is very important and needs detailed examination on various aspects. However, since the matter is pending before the Court, the Government would like to await the judicial verdict.

(b) and (c) According to Ministry of Mines a proposal has recently been received by F.I.P.B. for mining of limestone in Assam and its export to Bangladesh. This proposal has been supported by the Ministry of Mines.

A list of cases for grant of prospecting licence/mining lease approved during 1995-96 by Ministry of Mines is given below:

| | Mining Lease | Prospecting Licence |
|---|---|---|
| Assam | One case of Limestone.<br>One transfer case of Limestone | |
| Meghalaya | — | One case of Limestone. |

(d) In view of reply at (b) and (c) above, does not arise.

**Reservation for Women in Government JOBS**

*176. SHRI JOYANTA ROY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government is going to take appropriate measures for 33% job reservation in Government establishments for women; and

(b) in what manner this job reservation shall benefit women, particularly belonging to weakest strata of our society without being uplifted in respect of education and skill?

THE MINISTER FOR LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) and (b) The proposal to provide for reservation to women in jobs under the Central Government is under consideration.

**Acute Shortage of Essential Supplies in some parts of the Country**

*177. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news item in Indian Express dated the 18th March, 1996 stating that States like West Bengal, Maharashtra, etc. were starving of their allotted quota of wheat and rice resulting in hard hitting suffering to the poorer sections of the population who draw their sustenance from Public Distribution